Price decontrol of anti-diabetic drugs

2229. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that important anti-diabetic drugs such as Phenformin HCl, Chlorpropamide, Metformin Glipizide and Tolbutomide have been recommended for price decontrol by the Kelkar Committee;

(b) whether it is also a fact that each one of these drugs has significant sales turn-over and growth; and

(c) if so, what was the total sales turnover of each drug during 1986?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The drugs referred to in the question are exempted from price control as per recommendations of the Kelkar Committee.

(b) and (c) Sales turnover of formulations is not monitored and the required information is therefore not available.

Fixation of drug prices

2230. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to fix the prices of a number of drug unilaterally; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) The Government have so far fixed the ceiling prices in respect of some Category-I formulations based on the bulk drugs Ethambutol, Pyrazinamide, Sulphacetamide, Acetazolamide, INH and Atropine on the basis of Cost data already available with the Government as per provisions of DPCO, 1987.

Shortage of LPG Cylinders

2231. SHRI B. L. PANWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1321 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th March, 1987 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the shortage of gas cylinders is so acute that hundreds of consumers have not received cylinders for the last more than one month in Gurgaon (Haryana) and Ghaziabad (U.P.); and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and the details of the steps being taken by Government to ensure timely supply of gas cylinders to the consumers in Ghaziabad and Gurgaon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) A backlog in supply of LPG refills has developed in recent months in the Northern Region including at Gurgaon (Haryana) and Ghaziabad (U.P.) due to extended shutdown of Mathura Refinery during October, 1987, transporters strike and operational and IR problems at HPC's Shakurbasti Bottling Plant. Efforts are being made to maximise LPG production in the refineries and also augment supplies from other bottling plants, to the extent feasible.

Construction of sectional pipelines from Krishna-Godavari Oil and Gas basins

2232. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for the construction of sectional pipelines to the consumer points from Krishna-Godavari oil and gas basins;

(b) whether it is a fact that the natural gas can be used for boosting fertilizer output; and